

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-38 (Canceled)

39. **(Currently Amended)** In a computer system comprising a client computer and a server system, wherein the server system controls access to resource websites and generates and sends fast cookies and slow cookies to the client, and wherein the server has already sent a fast cookie to the client and has initially authenticated the client, a method for transmitting slow cookies to the client from the server system, comprising:

- a) the server receiving from the client a connection request to the server system, said connection request including a clear gif link, said request (1) including an indicia evidencing client receipt of the slow cookie or (2) not including an indicia evidencing client receipt of the slow cookie; wherein the clear gif link comprises a link to a transparent image file;
- b) based on the clear gif link connection request, the server system determining if the slow cookie has been received by the client pursuant to a prior request from the client;
- c) wherein, if the slow cookie is determined by the server system to have been previously received by the client, the server system responds to the connection request with a clear gif response without the slow cookie, and permits the client to access further resources from one or more of said websites;
- d) wherein, if the slow cookie is determined by the server system not to have been previously received by the client, the server system attempts to generate and provide the slow cookie in a clear gif response that includes the slow cookie;

wherein the fast cookie is immediately available for transmission to the client and the slow cookie is not immediately available for transmission to the client.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 39 wherein, if the server system determines the slow cookie was not previously received by the client,

- e) the server system determines if the slow cookie (1) has been prepared or (2) is in the queue awaiting transmission to the client and, if so,
- f) the server system sends the slow cookie to the client included in the clear gif response.

41. **(Currently Amended)** A programmed computer system including a server for connecting a client computer to resource websites, comprising:

- (A) a browser for said client computer programmed to send a website connection request to the server, said request including a clear gif link, said request further (1) including an indicia evidencing client receipt of a slow cookie or (2) not including an indicia evidencing receipt of the slow cookie; wherein the clear gif link comprises a link to a transparent image file;
- (B) a server including memory and processor wherein the processor is programmed to:
 - (1) control access to said resource websites;
 - (2) determine from memory if it has previously sent a fast cookie to said client computer and initially authenticated the client computer;
 - (3) based on the clear gif link connection request from the client, the server system determining if the slow cookie has been received by the client pursuant to a prior request from the client;

(4) wherein, if the slow cookie is determined by the server system to have been previously received by the client, the server system responds to the connection request with a clear gif response without the slow cookie, and permits the client to access further resources from one or more of said websites;

wherein the fast cookie is immediately available for transmission to the client and the slow cookie is not immediately available for transmission to the client.

42. **(Previously Presented)** The computer system of claim 41 wherein, if the server system determines the slow cookie was not previously received by the client, the server system is programmed to:

(5) determine if the slow cookie (a) has been prepared or (b) is in the queue awaiting transmission to the client's browser and, if so, to send the slow cookie to the client computer in a clear gif response to thereby enable the client computer to access said website resources.